

Agency Information

AGENCY: HSCA
RECORD NUMBER: 180-10144-10236

RECORD SERIES: CIA SEGREGATED COLLECTION

AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 30-59-01

Document Information

ORIGINATOR: HSCA
FROM:
TO:

TITLE: HSCA PROCEDURAL WRITE-UP: CUBA TRIP

DATE: 00/00/0000
PAGES: 45

SUBJECTS:
HSCA, TRIP TO CUBA

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53080 Date:
06-05-2017

DOCUMENT TYPE: REPORT
CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS: 1A; 1B
CURRENT STATUS: Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 08/21/1995

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS: Box 24

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Appendix I: HSCA Procedural Write-up Cuba Trip 1

Select Committee members Chairman Louis Stokes and Congressman Christopher Dodd, accompanied by G. Robert Blakey, Gary Cornwell and Ed Lopez of the Select Committee staff arrived in Cuba at 3:30 p.m., March 30, 1978. They were met and escorted through Cuban Customs by the Mayor of Havana, Honorable Oscar Fernandez Mell, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Armendo Torres Sentrayll, Senor Buergo, Ricardo Escartin and the Cuban government translator, Juanita Vera. At approximately 7:30 p.m. Senor Mell escorted the Select Committee staff to a restaurant in Old Havana. The following day Richardson Preyer arrived in Cuba at 7:00 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m. on March 31, 1978 the Select Committee representatives met with Ricardo Escartin, Senor Buergo and Captain Felipe Villa of the Ministry of the Interior.

The Cuban Government gave the members and Committee their official reply to the Committee's questionnaire, given to the Cuban government prior to the Committee's trip to Cuba.

At 3:00 p.m., the Select Committee met again with

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Ricardo Escarten, Senen Buergo, Felipe Villa and Juanita Vera. During this session the two major areas of discussion were Lee Harvey Oswald's visa application and the dates of Jack Ruby's visits to Cuba in 1959. (See transcript.) At 7:30 p.m. the House Select Committee on Assassinations staff dined with the Minister of Justice, Armando Torres Sartrayll.

At 9:00 a.m. on April 1, 1978, the Select Committee staff again met with the same Cuban officials for a third session. Santo Trafficante was the major area of discussion. (See transcript.) At noon, Committee members and staff representatives met with Cuba's Minister of Education, Honorable Jose Ramon Fernandez, who gave a presentation on the improvement in quality of Cuban education since the Cuban Revolution.

Following Senor Fernandez's discussion at 3:15 p.m. Eusebio Azcue was interviewed by the Committee staff representative. Azcue was questioned extensively about Oswald's alleged trip to Mexico City, Oswald's alleged visits to the Cuban Consulate, and Senor Azcue's alleged argument with Lee Harvey Oswald. (See transcript of Azcue interview.)

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At 7:30 p.m., April 1, 1978, Messers Escartin and Hernandez accompanied the House Select Committee staff to the Tropicana Club which, prior to the Revolution, was operated by organized crime. The Tropicana Club is presently run by the Cuban government.

At 11:00 a.m. on April 2, 1978, the Committee staff again met with Senen Buergo, Ricardo Escartin, Felipe Villa, Aramis Gutierrez and Juanita Vera. Santo Trafficante, Jack Ruby and Mexico City were the major areas of discussion. This session terminated at 1:00 p.m. At 4:50 p.m., the morning's meeting resumed. During the afternoon session the major area of discussion was the alleged pro-Castro involvement in the assassination.

At 9:15 a.m., April 3, 1978, the Committee staff met with the Cuban officials for a final work session. During this session, the intelligence agencies and general questions derived from the questionnaire the Committee provided the Cuban government, were the major areas of discussion. Also during the session the Committee staff and Cuban officials exchanged listings of pending material which might be covered during a subsequent

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trip to Cuba by HSCA representatives and Congressmen.

At 6:00 p.m. the Committee staff met with President Fidel Castro who assured the Committee that neither he nor his government had any involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (See Castro interview.)

The House Select Committee on Assassinations staff departed Havana, Cuba at 10:00 a.m., April 4, 1978, arriving in Washington, D.C. at 4:30 p.m.

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Appendix 2: HSCA Procedural Write-up Mexico Trip

House Select Committee on Assassinations staffers Gary Cornwell, Dan Hardway, Edwin Lopez and Harold Leap arrived at the Mexico City airport at 8:30 p.m., May 30, 1978. (All times are Mexico City times, unless otherwise specified.) They were met and escorted through Customs by David Patton, an employee of the United States Embassy.

The following morning, May , 1978 the HSCA representatives met with U.S. Embassy Political Officer Richard Howard concerning procedure. Mr. Howard scheduled a meeting at 11:15 a.m. with the Chief of the CIA Station in Mexico City. This meeting was preliminary in nature and concerned procedures regarding arrangement of the interviews of ex-CIA employees in Mexico.

At 12:00 noon, the NSCA representatives and Richard Howard met representatives of the Government of Mexico. The Mexican representatives were: 1) Dr. Jesus Vanez, Advisor to the Attorney General's Executive Officer; 2) Fernando Baeza, Chief Administrative Officer for the Attorney General; and 3) Commandante Florentino Ventura, Chief of the Mexican Federal Police. The Mexicans

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informed the staff members at this meeting that they had located Silvia Duran, Horacio Duran, Ruben Duran and Pedro Gutierrez Valencia and that each person was willing to be interviewed by the HSCA representatives. Procedure for conduct of the interviews was also discussed at this meeting.

The Mexican government decided that the initial interview would be an informal contact with the witnesses to describe the Committee's objectives. The witnesses' statements would be formalized at a later, taped interview. The Mexican officials informed the HSCA staff members that they had been unable to locate Oscar Contreras, Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz and Oscar Molina. The Mexican Government had not had contact with the Garros since 1968. The HSCA staff members provided additional information on Oscar Rodriguez Molina. The Mexicans said that they were trying to locate the Garros through the Foreign Ministry since Elena's ex-husband, Octavio Paz, was an important person in that ministry. The Mexicans asked that we determine the name of the Mexican Government contact during 1964 with the Warren commission so that they could locate their records in

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the Archives.

The Mexican officials left to set up the preliminary interviews with witnesses. The preliminary interviews were conducted by Gary Cornwell. HSCA staff members Dan Hardway, Edwin Lopez and Harold Leap were present during Cornwell's questioning. The Mexican Government was represented by Dr. Jesus Yanez, Commandante Florentino Ventura, and Jesus Meixueiro Kantz, second in command to Ventura. Pedro Gutierrez Valencia was interviewed at 2:30 p.m. Ruben Duran was interviewed at 5:00 p.m. Horacio Duran was interviewed at 5:30 p.m. Silvia Duran was interviewed at 6:15 p.m.

At 9:30 a.m. on June 1, 1978 the HSCA staff representatives met with the Mexican police representatives. The possibility of other witnesses and evidence was discussed. The HSCA staff requested 1) the records of the company that employed Gutierrez Valencia in 1963; press clippings of the Mexican newspaper coverage of Oswald and Silvia Duran (attached); an interview with Oscar Rodriguez Molina; 4) an interview with Oscar Contreras; 5) individual files on Elena Garro de Paz and Silvia Duran; 6) evidence related to Silvia Duran's assertion

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that Oswald was at the Cuban Embassy on one day only;
7) Deba Garro de Guerrero Galvan; 8) Eunice Odio;
9) Emilio Carballido; and 10) Victor Rico Galan. The
HSCA also asked to be shown the Cuban Consulate.

The Mexican representatives informed the HSCA
staff that Victor Rico Galan had, at one time, been
arrested on political charges but that he was subse-
quently pardoned by either Diaz Ordaz or Luis Echevarria.
The Mexicans said that they were searching for all files
and newspaper articles requested by the HSCA..

The Mexican officials also offered their observa-
tions on the preliminary interviews conducted the pre-
vious day. They pointed out that they found it strange
that Silvia had told Oswald he could not travel while
in Cuba. They wondered what she was trying to tell
him and whether she thought that Oswald had some objec-
tive in going to Cuba other than that ascribed by the
popular version. They considered the manner in which
Silvia obtained employment at the Cuban Consulate unusual.
Generally they noted that Silvia and her brothers seemed
to have almost programed responses and a defensive demea-
nor. They pointed out, however, that all the Durans had

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had been very interested in talking to us. In their opinion, Ruben Duran was the most credible of those interviewed by the HSCA the previous day.

At this point, a Mexican official who had been checking the computer records informed us that Victor Rico Galan was dead.

HSCA staff members provided the Mexican authorities with the names of the Mexican officials who had been involved in the investigation in 1963.

HSCA staff members met again with the Mexican police authorities at 10:00 a.m. on June 2, 1978. At this time, the Mexican police provided the copies of the newspaper clippings on the assassination from the Excelsior. HSCA staff members asked if the Mexicans could persuade the newspapers to reveal the sources of their stories about Oswald and Silvia Duran. The Mexican officials' response was negative. The Mexican officials informed the HSCA staff members that most of the data we wanted from the files was in their Security Service files. The Mexican officials working at the HSCA explained that they were the Mexican equivalent of the FBI and that the Security Service was the Mexican equivalent of the CIA; hence there was the usual bureaucratic problem

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involved in obtaining access to their files. The Mexicans informed the HSCA representatives that Emilio Carbillido had been located; that Victor Rico Galan was dead; that Deba Garro could not be located; and that there was no record of anyone named Eunice Odio. HSCA representatives told the Mexican officials that Odio, who was either Costa Rican or Guatemalan, had been the mistress of Emilio Carballido. The assassination and the reaction of the Mexican people to this event was discussed.

At 1:00 p.m., HSCA staff members conducted an interview at the United States Embassy in connection with the CIA aspects of the Mexico City investigation.

At 2:30, Gary Cornwell discussed problems with the Chief of the Mexico City CIA Station. He requested that the COS cable Headquarters regarding restrictions placed on the HSCA staff in Mexico.

At 6:00 p.m., the HSCA staff members, accompanied by Jesus Meixueiro Knty and his assistant, Honorio Escondon, met with the assistant chief of the Mexican Security Service Nazar. Mr. Nazar gave an oral resume of the interviews with Mexican officials conducted in 1963 of Silvia, Horatio and Ruben Duran and Betty Serratas.

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Mr. Nazar said that the files had to be formally requested before he could consider releasing them. He suggested that we secure statements admissible in United States courts from the witnesses whom we wished to interview. Mr. Nazar suggested that our best investigatory avenue would be to concentrate on Oswald's interrogation after his arrest on November 22nd. Mr. Nazar had a very low opinion of Elena Garro de Paz's credibility.

June 3 and 4, 1978, were spent on CIA-related aspects of the Mexico City investigation. Two interviews were conducted.

At 11:00 a.m. on June 5, 1978, the HSCA staff interviewed Horacio Duran for the record. At 1:00 p.m., HSCA staff member Edwin Lopez and Mexican officials Honorio Escondon and Dr. Alfonso Orozco Gutierrez interviewed Pedro Guerierrez Valencia for the record. At 5:00 p.m., HSCA staff members interviewed Lynn Duran, aka Lydia Duran, for the record.

On June 6, 1978 at 11:00 a.m., the HSCA staff interviewed Ruben Duran for the record. At 1:00 p.m., the staff representatives met with Commandante Ventura about unfinished business. The staff representatives agreed

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to supply the Mexicans with questions for two witnesses
who could not then be interviewed. Commandante Ventura
authorized Honorio Escondon to interview Oscar Contreras
Latrigue and Ernesto Leffel Miller. At 5:00 p.m., the
wife of Ruben Duran, Betty Serratos, was interviewed for
the record. At 5:45 p.m., Silvia Duran was interviewed
for the record.

The HSCA staff representatives left Mexico City
at 8:30 a.m. on June 7, 1978, arriving in Washington,
D.C. at 5:30 p.m., Washington time.

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Appendix 3: HSCA Procedural Write-up Mexico Trip 2

House Select Committee staffers Edwin Juan Lopez and Harold Leap traveled to Mexico City on August 7, 1978. The staff members were met by David T. Patton at the Mexican airport at 10:15 p.m. Mr. Patton then checked the staffers into Room 1754 at the Maria Isabel Hotel in Steinfield, CIA Chief of Station in Mexico City, wished to see us at 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1978, Committee staffers met with Larry Sternfield. He informed the staffers that the two individuals the Committee wished to interview, Daniel Flores, aka Luis Aparicio and Ramon Alvarez Durant, were now available.

At 9:30 a.m., August 8, 1978, Committee staff members interviewed Danny Flores. (See write-up of Danny Flores interview.) The interview ended at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Committee staff members returned to Mr. Sternfield's office, Mr. Sternfield stated that it appeared the GOC had only been able to locate two witnesses for the Committee, Oscar Contreras Lartigue and Noe W. Palomares.

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He asked the staff members whom they wished to speak to. The Committee staff members explained that they would like to interview Lichant I, Licookie I, LiHuff I, Litamail 7 and Litamil 9. Mr. Steinfield stated that it appeared that the House Select Committee on Assassinations had already asked the Mexicans to locate them.

Mr. Steinfield stated that the HSCA's interview with Ramon Alvarez Duran was considered "highly sensitive." He explained that three rooms at a nearby hotel would be used. In one room, Ramon Alvarez Duran would sit, Committee staff members would sit in a second room and two CIA personnel officers would insure that the equipment worked properly in a third room. Mr. Steinfield then phoned Mr. Niles Gooding, who had been sent to the Mexico City Station from Headquarters to arrange the procedures for the interviews. Mr. Gooding explained that in 1977 Stansfield Turner had created a new position at Headquarters to insure that important sensitive meetings were within the guidelines previously arranged. Mr. Gooding stated that the Central Intelligence Agency had been under greater Congressional scrutiny than the past two years. Therefore, Director Turner, in order to demonstrate the Agency's good faith, had engaged a retired

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Army officer to act as liaison at sensitive interviews by Congressional representatives. Mr. Gooding then explained that we would be escorted by two CIA personnel to our interview with Ramon Alvarez Durant.

At 10:55 a.m., August 8, 1978, Committee staff members interviewed Ramon Alvarez Durant. (See Ramon Alvarez Durant interview write-up.)

At 12:30 p.m., Committee staff members telephoned Captain Fernandez Ventura Gutierrez. His secretary explained that Mr. Ventura was not in the office, but that she would have him call us when he returned. At 6:30 p.m., since Mr. Ventura had not yet returned the staffer's call, they again called his office. His secretary apologized for Mr. Ventura and explained that he had not yet returned to the office and she assured us that he would telephone upon his return. At 9:15 p.m., Dr. Jesus Yanez, the Assistant to the official mayor, telephoned the staff members explaining that Mr. Ventura was very busy on an important assignment and asked us to visit the Procuraduria General at 11:00 a.m. the following morning.

At 10:15 a.m., August 9, 1978, Committee staff members met with State Department Official Richard Howard

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to alert him that the Committee would request the Mexican officials to make Silvia Duran available in Washington for an HSCA hearing. Mr. Howard explained that once we had permission from the Mexican government the State Department would insure that she was in Washington when necessary.

At 11:00 a.m., August 9, 1978, Committee staff members met with Dr. Jesus Yanez and Cipriano Martinez Novoa. Mr. Yanez told Committee staff members that Cipriano Martinez Novoa, the Mexican agent in charge, would try to aid us in all our interviews. Mr. Martinez then briefed the Committee staff members on their up-to-date progress:

Oscar Contreras Lartigue had been located and pre-interviewed by Mr. Martinez in Tampico, Mexico. We would fly to Tampico on Friday, August 11, 1978 at 7:35 a.m. to interview him.

Noe W. Palomares had been located and could be interviewed during the afternoon of Thursday, August 10, 1978 at his office, Cerrada de la Presa 4. His phone number, 595-0891, was made available to the Committee.

June Cobb Sharp received a tourist permit, number

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72781, on June 27, 1947. She entered Mexico through Nuevo Lardo, Texas. She requested but was denied permission by the Mexican government to represent the magazine, Modern Mexico. On June 21, 1948, she received a courtesy permit, number 25556. She disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico.

The Committee staffers did not tell the Mexicans that the House Select Committee on Assassinations had evidence from review of June Cobb's 201 file that she was in Mexico in the Sixties.

Eunice Odio Infante, a Costa Rican, received a three-month tourist permit from the Mexican government on February 9, 1964. She remained in Mexico, illegally residing at Nacas-45-a, until 1972. She applied to write for the Excelsior magazine on many different occasions, but was rejected every time. In 1972, Ms. Odio married a Communist painter, Rudolfo Sanabria Gonzalez and moved to Rio Neba-16 Apartment 40. On May 24, 1972, Ms. Odio was found dead in her bathtub. The official presiding at her autopsy concluded that Ms. Odio had poisoned herself.

Emilio Carballido Fontanes was in Caracas, Venezuela, on vacation and scheduled to return to Mexico in early

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September. His address is Constituyentes 207. His phone number is 515-8345.

Consuelo Esperon's personnel record in Mexico could not be located. When the Mexican officials inquired about her at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City to the Committee's trip, no one at the office remembered that she had worked there. Committee staff members were told that Esperon was probably dead. No basis was given for the Mexican government's conclusion.

Al Wichtrich worked at Royal Crown Cola until 1968 when its offices in Mexico closed.

Carlos Jurado J. Delmar was born in Cuba on November 3, 1927. He entered Mexico July 1, 1965 and taught Graphics and Art at U.N.A.M. until January 1, 1968 when he disappeared. The Mexican officials assume that he returned to Cuba.

General Jesus Jose Clark Flores died in the early 1970's.

Ernesto Lehfeld Miller, Academic Coordinator at the School of Interior Design, had not yet been located.

Luis Alberue Suoto lives at Michelet #7, Apartment #301, Colonia Aneura, Mexico City. His phone number is 545-9947. The landlady at this apartment explained to

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the Mexican officials that Mr. Alberue had left town hurriedly on Monday, August 7, 1978. Mr. Martinez, wishing to know when he returned, had placed a piece of scotch tape on the bottom right edge of his door. Mr. Martinez explained that he checked it every four hours and would notify us if Alberue returned before we left.

Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuahtemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. The landlady for the past twenty-five years at the apartments told Mr. Martinez that Manuel Calvillo had never resided there. Committee staff members explained that Calvillo went by a pen name which would be forwarded to the Mexican officials the following morning.

When Committee staff members inquired whether Ms. Silvia Tirado Bazan could testify at an HSCA hearing, the Mexican officials stated that they would have an answer for the staffers by Friday morning. The Mexican officials explained that they would have to speak to her to insure that she was willing to travel to Washington.

On Thursday, August 10, 1978, at 11:00 a.m. the Committee staff members met with Dr. Jesus Yanez, Agent Cipriano Martinez Novoa, Captain Florentino Ventura

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Gutierrez and Attorney General Licensiado, Manuel Calvillo's "pen name" was given to the Mexicans who stated that they would check it with the landlady at his alleged apartment building.

Committee staffers returned to their hotel room with Agent Cipriano Martinez Novoa after the meeting. Agent Martinez attempted without success to telephone Oscar Contreras Lartigue to inform him of our visit. At 3:30 p.m., Agent Martinez finally reached Mr. Contreras' child who informed him that Mr. Contreras was not in Tampico. He had traveled to Mexico City for a Partido Republicano Institucional convention. When Agent Martinez asked the child if he knew where his father was staying in Mexico City, he responded that he did not. Agent Martinez explained to the child that he would call at a later time to speak to his mother.

Agent Martinez telephoned Noe W. Palomares at 4:00 p.m. and arranged an interview for 6:30 p.m. that evening. Mr. Martinez asked Committee staff members to meet him at his office at the Procuraduria General at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., August 10, 1978, Committee staff members met Agent Cipriano Martinez at the Procuraduria

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General at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., August 10, 1978, Committee staff members met Agent Cipriano Martinez at the Procuraduria General. Martinez then drove the HSCA representatives to Mr. Palmoares' office. At 6:30 p.m., Committee staff members interviewed Noe W. Palomares. (See Noe W. Palomares interview write-up.)

Following the interview Agent Martinez returned to the Maria Isabel Hotel with Committee staff members. He attempted to reach Mrs. Contreras telephonically at Tampico twice without success. At 9:45 p.m., he finally contacted her. Mrs. Contreras told Agent Martinez that Mr. Oscar Contreras had told her that he would try to get a room at either the Hotel Regis or Hotel San Francisco. Mrs. Contreras explained that since there were a few conventions scheduled in Mexico City that weekend she could not assure that he would be at either. Mrs. Contreras told Agent Martinez that she would notify him if her husband should call.

Mr. Martinez called both hotels and inquired whether Oscar Contreras Lartigue was registered. He was not registered at either; they were completely booked up.

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Mr. Martinez attempted to reach by telephone Silvia Tiardo Bazan at her home to ask her whether she would be willing to travel to Washington to testify at a HSCA hearing and to ask if she knew where Mr. Ernesto Lehfeld Miller could be located. She was not at home, however.

Agent Martinez explained that he would attempt to locate Oscar Contreras Lartige Lartige at the hotel where the Partido Republicano Institucional was holding its convention early the following morning; after which he would meet the staff members at 9:30 a.m. at their hotel room.

At 9:45 a.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez met Committee staffers at their hotel room and explained that he was unable to locate Mr. Contreras Lartigue at the convention. Mr. Martinez then left to check the whereabouts of Mr. Alberue Suoto and Silvia Tirado Bazan.

At 12:30 p.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez returned to the Committee staff members' hotel room. He telephoned Mrs. Contreras in Tampico who stated that her husband had not telephoned her since she had last spoken to Agent Martinez. At 1:50 p.m., another agent, Honorio Escondon, telephoned Agent Martinez at the Committee staffers' hotel room to inform him that Luis Alberue Suoto must be back in town because the scotch tape placed at the base of his

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entranceway door was no longer in place. At 1:55 p.m., Agent Martinez telephoned Luis Alberue Sutoto. During the phone conversation, Alberue denied that he had worked at the Cuban Embassy in the Sixties, stated that he knew nothing about the assassination and declined the Committee staff members' request to interview him.

At 2:00 p.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez telephoned Silvia Duran. Agent Martinez then gave the telephone to Committee staffer Lopez. Mr. Lopez ask Ms. Tirado whether she would be willing to testify sometime in September at a Committee hearing in Washington; she answered affirmatively. She stated that September 13th, 14th and 15th would not be "good days" because the Mexican Revolution celebration would be taking place and she was a planner and participant. When Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Tirado if she knew Mr. Ernesto Lehfeld Miller's phone number, she stated that she did not., but she stated that if we telephoned her ex-husband Horatio at either 516-0398 or 515-8621, he would be able to help us.

At 2:15 p.m., Committee staffer Lopez telephoned Horatio Duran, who gave him Ernesto Lehfeld Miller's office phone number, 548-4839. At 2:20 p.m., Lopez telephoned Mr. Miller and arranged a meeting for 9:00 p.m. that evening.

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At 2:30 p.m., Agent Martinez telephoned Capitan Ventura to report on his progress, pertaining to his work with the HSCA. When Martinez told Ventura that he had located Alberue, Ventura asked him if he was alone. When Agent Martinez lied and stated that he was alone, Ventura told him that he should under no circumstances allow us to interview Alberue. When Agent Martinez completed his phone call, he said, "I don't understand why nobody wants you to talk to him."

At 9: p.m., August 11, 1978, Committee staffers interviewed Ernesto Lehfeld Miller. (See Ernesto Lehfeld Miller interview write-up.)

At 11:15 a.m., August 12, 1978, Committee staffer Lopez called Luis Alberue Suoto at his home. When Mr. Lopez identified himself, Mr. Alberue immediately stated that he knew nothing. He further stated that he never worked for the Cuban Embassy. When Lopez explained to him that employees at the Cuban Embassy had stated that he had been employed there, Mr. Suoto hung up. Mr. Alberue's voice quivered throughout the short talk.

At 11:45 a.m., Silvia Tirado called Lopez and stated that she had thought all night about travelling to Washington. She said she had seen a report in the newspapers in which Azcue had stated that the man who visited the Cuban Consulate

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in 1963 was not Lee Harvey Oswald. She stated that Azcue had only seen Oswald once while she had seen Oswald "at least three times." When Lopez said, "At least three times?" Ms. Tirado said. "Three times, you know?" She further stated that if she testified in Washington and the Committee concluded that she was lying she would be crucified when she returned to Mexico. Mr. Lopez reassured her and explained that when he returned to Washington he would send her a long letter explaining procedures.

At 12:05 p.m., Agent Martinez met the Committee staff members at the airport. He stated that Contreras and Calvillo had not been located. The Committee staffers gave Martinez a list of questions to ask Oscar Contreras Lartigue. Agent Martinez stated that he would mail the results of the interview to Lopez at the Committee offices in Washington. The Committee never received any interview reports from the Mexican government.

The Committee staff members left Mexico City at 1:55 p.m. and arrived at Washington's Dulles Airport at 10:35 p.m.

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Appendix 4: HSCA Procedural Write-up Cuba Trip 2

On August 25, 1978, Congressman Richardson Preyer and HSCA staff members G. Robert Blakey and Edwin Juan Lopez Soto traveled to Cuba from Miami at 8:25 a.m. on an Air-Taxi Service charter plane. The Committee representatives arrived in Cuba at 10:15 a.m. They were met by the Minister of Justice, Armondo Torres Snatrayll; Washington Consul Ricardo Escartin; American Department official, Senen Buergo; and translator, Nellie Ruiz de Zarade. The Committee representatives were escorted to their suite, room number 2003, at the Hotel Riviera at 11:00 a.m.

At 12:15 p.m., the Committee representatives met with Ricardo Escartin, Felipe Villa, Senen Buergo and translators Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade. Also present were two Cuban stenographers. Senen Buergo, the spokesperson, welcomed the Committee representatives to Cuba and thanked the Committee for its correspondence. Mr. Buergo apologized on behalf of the Cuban government for the postponement of previously scheduled trips of May 24th and 25th, 1978. Mr. Buergo stressed that in his opinion there was a conspiracy to link Cuba to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. At that point, he haded four files

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to Congressman Richardson Preyer. The files consisted of:
a) material concerning Santo Trafficante; b) a letter
dated 25 November 1963 from Hernandez Armas to Raul Roa;
c) the results of the Cuban government's research into
mis-information linking the Cuban Government to the assas-
sination of President John F. Kennedy; and d) the report
of the Investigative Committee of the International Tri-
bunal of the Eleventh Festival reporting on the defamation
campaign to link Cuba to the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Buergo stated that both Eusebio Azcue Lopez
and Alfredo Mirabal Diaz would that day be made available
for interviews. Mr. Buergo stated that Nilo Otero would
be made available for interview the following day, 26 August
1978. Mr. Buergo stated that Rogelio Rodriguez was pre-
sently stationed in West Germany. Bruego stated that Ricardo
Escartin, previously interviewed Mr. Rodriguez and was
told by Rodriguez that he had had no contact with Lee Har-
vey Oswald. Mr. Buergo stated that if the Committee still
desired to interview Rodriguez, he would be made available
to the Committee. Mr. Buergo stated that an interview with
Rolando Cubela Secades would be arranged.

Mr. Buergo asked if the Committee was still inter-
ested in interviewing Orestes Guillermo Ruiz Perez. Mr.

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Buergo stated that the Cuban government had no record of a citizen named Griselle Rubio. Mr. Buergo inquired whether the Committee representatives were interested in watching the videotaped statements of James Wilcott and Phillip Agee at the Tribunal. Congressman Preyer responded that the Committee's representatives would want to view the Wilcott and Agee videotaped statements.

Mr. Buergo stated that our schedule included dinner with the Minister of Justice at 8:00 p.m. on 25 August 1978, fishing on 27 August 1978 (Sunday), and a farewell dinner on 28 August 1978.

Congressman Preyer thanked the Cuban officials for making both the documents and witnesses available to the Select Committee.

Professor Blakey stated that the Committee was no longer interested in interviewing Rolando Cuebela. Mr. Blakey stated that Griselle Rubio had been found and interviewed by a Committee investigator. Mr. Blakey stated that the Committee wanted to interview Oreste Guillermo Ruiz Perez for two reasons: he worked at the Cuban Embassy in September 1963 when Oswald allegedly visited the Cuban compound in Mexico City; and, he is married to the cousin of a counter-revolutionary, Antonio Veciana Blanch. Mr. Blakey stated that Rogelio Rodriguez need not be interviewed.

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Captain Felipe Villa stated that the Cuban government, relying on the seriousness and honesty of the Committee's work, thought that the Committee should have knowledge of Cubela's statements. Mr. Villa stated that the Committee still needed to provide the Cuban government with the following: a) a workable formula on counter-revolutionaries that could be used by the Cuban government to aid the Committee in its investigation of such organizations; b) copies of Lee Harvey Oswald's signatures that the Cuban government could use to perform its own handwriting comparison test; c) E. Howard Hunt's aliases; and d) public information of interest to the Cuban government that the Committee could provide without violating its rules.

Mr. Blakey stated that examples of Lee Harvey Oswald's handwriting would be forthcoming. Mr. Blakey stated that the Committee had not yet developed a formula for identifying counter-revolutionary groups active against the Cuban government in 1963 or a method for providing E. Howard Hunt's aliases. Mr. Blakey stressed that both these areas would be discussed in the Committee's final report.

At 1:00 p.m. the first work session ended.

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At 3:15 p.m. House Select Committee on Assassinations representatives interviewed Juan Nilo Otero in Room 2003 of the Hotel Riviera. Present were Congressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez Soto, Senen Buergo, Ricardo Escartin, Captain Felipe Villa, translator Juanita Vera and two stenographers. (See Juan Nilo Otero interview transcript.) The interview ended at 5:15 p.m.

At 8:00 p.m. the Committee's representatives met Senen Buergo and translator Nellie Ruiz de Zarade at the Hotel Riviera's lobby. The group was chauffered to the Bodeguita del Medio--one of Cuba's most famous restaurants-- where they dined with the Minister of Justice, Armando Torres Santrayll.

At 10:15 a.m., 26 August 1978, Select Committee representatives interviewed Alfredo Mirabal Diaz in Room 2003 at the Hotel Riviera. Present were Congressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez Soto, Senen Buergo, Captain Felipe Villa, Ricardo Escartin, translators Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade and two stenographers. (See Alfredo Mirabal Diaz interview transcript.) The interview ended at 12:45 p.m.

After the Mirabal interview Mr. Buergo asked whether the HSCA representatives wished to interview Jose Veradcia

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Verdacia, the Warden of Trascornia while Santos Trafficante was a detainee. When Congressman Richardson Preyer stated that the Committee would indeed be interested in interviewing Jose Verdacia Verdacia, Mr. Burego stated that he would be available for an interview at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., HSCA representatives interviewed Jose Verdacia Verdacia in Room 2003 of the Hotel Riviera. Present were Congressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez Soto, Senen Buergo, Captain Felipe Villa, Ricardo Escartin, Aramis Gutierrez, translators Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade, and two stenographers. (See Jose Verdacia Verdacia interview transcript.) The interview ended at 4:20 p.m.

On Sunday morning, 27 August 1978, the Cuban Government's representatives took the Select Committee representatives to Veradero Beach.

At 8:35 p.m. Select Committee representatives interviewed Orestes Guillermo Ruiz Perez at the Hotel Internacional at Veradero Beach. Present were Congressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juna Lopez Soto, Ricardo Escartin, Captain Felipe Villa, Senen Buergo and translator Juanita Vera. (See Orestes Guillermo Ruiz Perez interview transcript.) Because there were no steno-

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graphers present the Cuban representatives tape-recorded
the interview. The interview ended at 9:20 p.m.

On 28 August 1978, at 10:25 a.m., HSCA representa-
tives interviewed Rolando Cubela Secades in Room 2003 at
the Hotel Riviera. Present were Congressman Richardson
Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez Soto, Ricardo
Escartin, Captain Felipe Villa, Senen Buergo, translator
Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade, and two stenogra-
phers. Also present was Antonio Hernandez who escorted
Mr. Cubela from prison to the Hotel. (See Rolando Cubela
Secades interview transcript.) The interview ended at
11:45 p.m.

At 3:25 p.m., HSCA representatives interviewed
Maria Teresa Proenza y Proenza in Room 2003 of the Hotel
Riviera. Present were Congressman Richardson Preyer,
G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez Soto, Ricardo Escartin,
Captain Felipe Villa, Senen Buergo, Antonio Hernandez,
translator Nellie Ruiz de Zarade and two stenographers.
(See Maria Teresa Proenza y Proenza interview transcript.)
The interview ended at 4:15 p.m.

On 29 August 1978, at 9:30 a.m., the HSCA repre-
sentatives met the Cuban delegation for a final work ses-
sion in Room 2003 of the Hotel Riviera. Present were Con-

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gressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Juan Lopez, Ricardo Escartin, Senen Buergo, Captain Felipe Villa, translators Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade and two stenographers.

The Cuban delegation spokesperson, Senen Buergo, explained that Mr. Manuel Piniero was out of the country and therefore an interview could not be arranged. Mr. Buergo explained that the Cuban delegation had located Luisa Calderon but because she was ill an interview could not be arranged. Mr. Buergo suggested that the HSCA forward questions to the Cuban Government. Ms. Calderon's answers would then be forwarded to the Committee.

Mr. Buergo explained that Raul Roa had a very busy schedule. Mr. Road, feeling that he could not add any more information to what Nilo Otero had already provided, declined the interview.

Material handed to the HSCA representatives at this time included:

- a) a list of persons whom the Cuban delegation believed to have had close relationships with Santo Trafficante;
- b) photographs depicting what the Cuban government believed to be a Central Intelligence Agency

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photographic surveillance base targeted
against the Cuban Consulate and Embassy in
Mexico City during 1963;

- c) an essay entitled "Imperialism's Political, Economic, and Military Organizations and Agencies of Crime, such as the CIA" and
- d) an article entitled "Finally We Have Eliminated That Pinho in the White House, said Bob, When He Heard About JFK's Assassination"

The final work session ended at 11:00 a.m.

At 1:00 p.m., the Cuban delegation escorted the Committee's representatives to the airport. At the airport they were big farewell by the Minister of Justice, Armando Torres Santrayll, Senen Buergo, Juanita Vera and Nellie Ruiz de Zarade.

At 3:30 p.m., the HSCA representatives and Washington Consul, Ricardo Escartin, departed Cuba.

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VII. Analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico

City

A. Introduction

After the Warren Commission investigation published its report two very important allegations related to Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City have come to the attention of the United States investigative agencies. In 1964, Elena Garro de Paz reported that she had seen Lee Harvey Oswald, accompanied by two other men, at a party at the home of Ruben Duran Navarro, the brother-in-law of Silvia Duran. (See Section VI, C.) In 1967, Oscar Contreras Lartigue reported that he met Lee Harvey Oswald on the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. (UNAM) (See Section VI, D, above.)

In addition, the testimony of the Warren Commission's primary witness related to Mexico City, Silvia Tirado Duran, has been called into question. (See Warren Report pp. 299-304, 733-736; and Sections I, B, V, C, and VI, A, above.) Some of the information that is inconsistent with Ms. Duran's original story, that Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate on two occasions, which were the only times she saw him, was available at the time of the Warren Commission's inquiry although it was ignored; some of the information has developed

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after the publication of the Warren Report. (See Sections V, C and VI, A and B respectively for details.)

The Garro and Contreras allegations in conjunction with the weakening of Ms. Duran's story raise three major questions: did Lee Harvey Oswald or an imposter visit the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City?; other than his visits to the Cuban Consulate, what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City?; and, was Lee Harvey Oswald traveling alone in Mexico? (These three questions do, of course, overlap somewhat in detail. For example, if Oswald was not traveling alone, did one of his companions impersonate him at the Cuban Consulate? Each of the three questions will be dealt with in separate sections below. If the discussion at times seems slightly redundant it is because that is an unavoidable side-effect of the interrelatedness of the questions.)

In an attempt to answer the questions posed above the House Select Committee on Assassinations has: 1) interviewed Mexican and Cuban citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's visits to the Cuban Consulate; 2) Interviewed Mexican citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's activities and associations in Mexico City; 3) Conducted an extensive review of the files of the Central Intelligence

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Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that pertain
to Oswald's sojourn in Mexico City.

B. Did Lee Harvey Oswald or an Imposter Contact
the Cuban and Soviet Consulates in Mexico City?

Lee Harvey Oswald himself probably visited the Cuban Consulate at least once since his application for a Cuban intransit visa bears his signature. (Cite to Handwriting analysis.) Though the Cuban Consulate allowed visa applicants to take blank applications out of the Consulate to be returned when completed, Silvia Duran was certain that Oswald signed the application in her presence. (HSCA Interview of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Document #311681, pp. 31-33.) Oswald's signature on the Cuban visa application, however, does not by itself rule out the possibility that someone impersonated Oswald in contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies.

An analysis of the telephone conversations which the CIA's Mexico City Station intercepted by tapping the Soviet Consulate and the Soviet Military Attache's telephone reveals that someone, later identified as Oswald, visited the Cuban Consulate at least two times and the Soviet Consulate at least thress times. (See Sections II,

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C, III, A, 1, and III, B, 2, above.) On September 27, 1963, at 4:05 p.m. Silvia Duran called the Soviet Consulate. In this conversation she refers to an American seeking an intransit visa to Cuba. The substantive information given indicates that she is discussing Oswald. (See Section III, B, 2, above.) At this time the individual using Oswald's name has been at the Soviet Embassy at least once already since Silvia requests the name of the Soviet Embassy official who dealt with the American. (CIA Transcript from the Russian Embassy, 9/27/63.) Silvia also stated that the American is, at that time, in the Cuban Consulate. (Ibid.) At 4:26 p.m. a Soviet Consular official returned Silvia Duran's call. This official states specifically that Oswald had visited the Soviet Consulate. (Ibid.)

On September 28, 1963, at 11:51 a.m. Silvia Duran called the Soviet Consulate. (Ibid.) She put the American, later identified as Oswald, on the telephone. (Ibid.) The American, who was at the Cuban Consulate at the time, said that he had just been at the Soviet Consulate. (Ibid.) The conversation ends with the American stating that he was returning to the Soviet Consulate. (CIA Transcript from the Russian Embassy, 9/28/63.)

Analysis of Silvia Duran's and Eusebio Azcue's

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stories would tend to indicate that Oswald, or someone impersonating him, visited the Cuban Consulate at least one and possibly two additional times on September 27, 1963. Silvia Duran says that Oswald first visited the Cuban Consulate at approximately 11:00 a.m. requesting an intransit visa to Cuba with Russia as the final destination. (Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Document #011681.)

Ms. Duran sent Oswald to obtain photographs that he needed for the visa application. (Ibid., p. 20-23.) Eusebio Azcue recalls that this visit probably occurred on the date on the visa application, 9/27/63. (Public testimony of Eusebio Azcue, 9/18/78, p. 36.)

Although unlikely, if someone impersonated Oswald in Mexico, it is possible that the individual's first visit occurred before Oswald's arrival. It is unlikely because such actions would have been poor tradecraft.)

Ms. Duran also stated that Oswald returned at approximately 1:00 p.m. with four photographs. (Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Document #011681, p. 23.) Eusebio Azcue also stated that the individual later identified as Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate about 1:00 p.m. with the photographs probably on "the date that appears on the application, that is to say on the 27th." (Public

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Testimony of Eusebio Azcue, 9/18/78, p. 32-33) The argument between Azcue and the individual probably occurred during this visit. (See Sections V, C, and VI, B, above.)

Ms. Duran stated that Oswald's third, and last visit, occurred in the late afternoon after working hours on the 27th. (Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #011681, p. 37.) This visit is confirmed by the CIA's tap on the Soviet Consulate. (See above.)

IN addition to the alleged Oswald visits to the Consulates, there were other telephonic contacts that may have been between Oswald, or an imposter, and the Consulates. (See Sections III, A, 1, and III, B, above.)

Several details about Oswald's visits to the Cuban Consulate, and telephonic contacts with both Consulates indicate that the individual involved was not Oswald.

Sylvia Duran's description of Oswald did not resemble Oswald's true physical appearance. (HSCA Interview of Sylvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #01668; Cite also early report. See Section V, C for details.) This description, which appeared early in the reporting of information obtained from Ms. Duran was deleted from subsequent reports and was not at all mentioned in the Warren Report. See Sections V, C, for details.) Eusebio Azcue's description of Oswald was similar to Sylvia Duran's, but

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more detailed. (Azcue cite.) Perhaps the most remarkable thing about these descriptions is their similarity to Elena Garra de Paz' description of one of Oswald's alleged companions. (See Section VI, C, above and VII, B, below.) (NOTE: add blond man on Knoll if found.)

Another possible indication that an imposter, as well as Oswald, visited the Consulate is the 9/28/63 intercepted conversation. Silvia Duran adamantly denies that Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate on Saturday, September 28, 1963. In light of the CIA intercept of that date, Ms. Duran has either lied to the Committee or the individual who visited the Consulate on September 18 was not Oswald. (Note: the CIA's classification of the transcript of this conversation prevented the HSCA from directly confronting Ms. Duran with the information.) Ms. Duran, in light of the inconsistencies detailed in Sections V, C and VI, A above, may not be the most credible witness but there are indications that she was truthful when she stated that Oswald did not visit the Consulate on September 28. The September 28, 1963 conversation was linked to Oswald because of the marginal notations made by the CIA translator on the transcript. (See Sections II, C, 4 3 and III, A, 1 above.) The translator noted on the transcript that the

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caller spoke "terrible, hardly recognizable Russian." (Cite transcript.) On October 1, 1963, a man called the Soviet Consulate and identified himself as "Lee Oswald." (Cite transcript.) This man also stated that he had been at the Consulate on Saturday, the 28th. (Ibid.) The translator noted that this was the same man who had called the Consulate "a day or so ago" and had spoken in broken Russian. From this information, and possibly a voice comparison (see Section IV, B, above) the 9/28 caller was identified as Oswald. The problem with assuming that the caller on 9/28 and 10/9 was Oswald is that Oswald spoke fluent Russian. (Cites.) Granted, Ms. Duran's denial of the Saturday visit and the proficiency of the caller's Russian is not sufficient evidence to conclude that the person who visited the Cuban Consulate on Saturday and who called the Soviet Consulate on Saturday and on October 1st was an imposter. Yet the information is sufficient to seriously question the assumption that it was Oswald, especially in light of Azcue's and Duran's descriptions and Elena Garro de Paz's story.

Three calls that also occurred early on September 27, 1963, may have been made by an imposter. At approximately 10:30 a.m. a man called the Soviet Military Attaché

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looking for a visa to Odessa and was referred to the Soviet Consulate. At 10:37 a.m. a man called the Soviet Consulate and asked for a visa to Odessa. He was told to call back at 11:00. At 1:25 p.m. a man called the Consul between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. that day.

While only the callers' requests for a visa to Russia (Odessa) connect these calls to Oswald, the HSCA believes that they do fit logically into a time sequence created by what is known from testimony and the electronic intercepts about his actions on that day. The following is a reasonable possible chronology of Oswald's actions on 9/27/63 based on analysis of the available evidence. Oswald probably arrived in Mexico around 10:00 a.m. on September 27. (Cite WR.) By 10:30 Oswald had time to arrive at the Hotel del Comercio and to place a call to the Soviet Military Attaché who referred him to the Consul. The military attaché also gave the caller directions to the Consulate. During the 10:37 a.m. call to the Consulate the caller learned that he could contact the Consul at 11:00 a.m. This done, Oswald then went to the Cuban Consulate where he arrived around 11:00 a.m. (HSCA Interview with Silvia Duran, 6/6/78. JFK Doc. #011681, p. 31.) This meeting only lasted approximately fifteen minutes.

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(public testimony of Alfredo Mirabel Diaz, 9/18/78, p. 119.) and sent Oswald to obtain photographs and to the Russian Embassy to get the necessary Russian visa. (HSCA Interview of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #11681, p. 23.) Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate around 1:00 p.m. (Ibid., p. 31.) At this point he had his encounter with Azcue and completed this VISA application. (Ibid.) Oswald probably realized at this point that he would have problems obtaining the visas. After this visit to the Cuban Consulate, which lasted approximately fifteen minutes

(Public testimony of Alfredo Mirabel Diaz, 9/18/78, p. 119) Oswald tried to contact the Soviet Consul whom Oswald claimed had assured him that he would have no problems obtaining a visa. (Cite.) Hence, the 1:25 call. During this conversation Oswald learned that the Consul would be in that evening between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate at 4:00 and persuaded Silvia Duran to intercede with the Soviet Consul on his behalf. (HSCA Interview of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #01168, p. 37.) Hence, the 4:05 and 4:26 p.m. calls involving Duran.

But there is a problem with attributing the first three calls on September 27, 1963 to Oswald. The conversa-

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tions are all in Spanish. With the exception of Delgado
the evidence indicates that Oswald did not speak Spanish.
(Cites.) Hence, either the above-detailed calls were not
made by Oswald or Oswald could speak English.

There is not enough evidence to firmly conclude
that some one did impersonate Oswald in Mexico. On the
other hand, the evidence is of such a nature that the pos-
sibility cannot be dismissed.

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